

CDXC newsletter

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| President: G3KMA | CDXC 1988 | Vice-President: G3HTA |
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Issue 57

24th September 1988

Editor: G3XTT

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR This issue of the newsletter is being prepared in time to be distributed, all being well, at the HF Convention. The Convention, and the buffet which follows it, will be "the" DXing event of the year and I hope to see many CDXC members in the course of the weekend.

It is my sad duty to record that Jack, G2DMR, the CDXC Club Treasurer and a CDXC stalwart since the early days, passed away on Saturday 17th September while convalescing after a major operation. Jack's funeral was due to be held on Thursday 22nd September. No flowers please, but any donations should go to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Since the last newsletter HF propagation has continued to improve and I'm sure sparks will fly during the autumn DX season, especially during the various contests. I'm delighted to note that the UK, and CDXC in particular, looks almost like doing an "OH" (notice how OH2BH and friends turn up from all corners of the globe in the major CQWW contests?). Steve, G4JVG, will be on from VK9Y and Cris, G4FAM, from CT3 during the SSB leg, and Cris will join others from GU during the CW leg. There are also some other possibilities in the pipeline.

Welcome this time to new members Steve, G4EDG, and Geoff Watts, leading SWL, founder of DXNS and IOTA, and member of CQ Hall of Fame. Welcome also to Alan, GWOBIC, to G4ZYQ, to Peter, G0ABI, to Graham, G2BJK, to Peter, G3ESY, and to Dave, G3MIR. We also look forward to welcoming more new members next time, following on from the HF Convention.

It might be worth re-iterating here the requirements for CDXC membership. Prospective members should have achieved the basic requirements for DXCC (100 countries worked and confirmed), although they need not actually have the award itself. They should also be sponsored by two existing members. Most of all, of course, they should be enthusiastic DXers, prepared to put as much into DXing as they get out.

Congratulations are very much the order of the day to Ian, G4LJF, on being only the fifth G to achieve 5BWAZ (the others are G3MCS G3GIQ G4BWP and G4GIR), to Henry, G3GIQ, this year's winner of the

prestigious ROTAB trophy (Henry is the third CDXC member in a row to receive this award), to Roger, G3KMA, on being joint number two recipient of the new 10m DXCC award (Roger was the only European in the top ten), and to Cris, G4FAM, for his efforts in editing the new RSGB awards book.

Your ed. is now active on the "alternative" CDXC frequency of 70.385MHz, and finding it much quieter than 525; ideal for the occasional ragchew with CDXC members without tying up the alerting frequency. Perhaps we might see more members on there during the next year? Remember also the 80m net on 3773+/-, starting at 1100 clock time on Sundays. This is useful to keep more outlying members in touch. We have been without a regular MC for this net, so G3GIQ will try to organise a rota. If you can help every so often, please let Henry know.

On the social events side, the 10th of December has been earmarked for a dinner probably at Ye Olde Swan at Thames Ditton as this has proved popular in the past. Contact G3LQP for information. Members in other parts of the country may like to organise similar events of their own.

It's been encouraging recently to see South Georgia back on the air by way of Tony, VP8BRR, and Steve, VP8BUB. Thanks to Hazel, G4YLO, and others for their efforts in helping many of us to work this rare one.

Your Committee met on 9th September. A number of matters were discussed. It was decided that the time is approaching when we should aim to have a more formal constitution. This becomes mandatory if we wish to go ahead and affiliate to the RSGB, as discussed at the last Annual Review Meeting. A draft will be produced and will appear in these pages for discussion at the next Annual Review Meeting. We also discussed our activities at the HF Convention. Another concern is how best we can involve the more distant members in CDXC activities, and particularly in alerting one another to the appearance of "wanted" countries. A national scheme of telephone alerting seems impractical. It looks as though some kind of "buddy" system within a local telephone call area might be best, provided there is a critical mass of CDXC members within any given area. The Committee would very much welcome suggestions from members outside the main areas of activity (currently the Thames Valley and the West Country) as to what might be most appropriate and practical.

Finally, deadline for subs is the end of September. Anyone who hasn't paid by then will not receive the next newsletter. G3LQP is kindly standing in as treasurer for the time being. The Committee has agreed that, to put things on the straight and narrow, the subscription year will run from 1st July to 30th June, with three months grace to pay subs each year (ie until the end of September). Anyone joining between 1st January and 30th June will only be asked to pay half a year's subs. However, the Club's financial year will run from 1st April until 31st March so that an accurate set of accounts can be produced and audited to be presented at the Annual Review Meeting (to be held sometime during May/June).

73 de Don, G3XTT

FROM TONY, G4SVB: As I have been a member for almost a year, I thought it about time to write in. First, with personal details - introduced to amateur radio at the age of 15 - in 1946, when I was given a large box of pre-war components and Practical Wireless magazines. Remained an SWL until the early 1950's. No further contact until 1982 when I met a licensed ham and the bug bit again. Licensed March 1983. Current station TS830S, TL922, 55ft tower, 4-ele triband beam for HF, inv-V and pair of phased verticals for 40m, inv-V for 80m and 3/8 wave wire for 160m. The TL922 is a very recent addition which does help a little in the pile-ups - hi. Current DXCC total 266 (A long way yet to Honor Roll).

Following the recent discussion and letters regarding the name of the Club, in spite of the national/international flavour, I would support retaining the original name. A lot of the DX clubs with international support have a "local" name; the Chiltern DX Club is well known under its present title.

It is easy to decry list operation if you own an expensive antenna system and a 2kW linear, and it is unfortunate that some are very badly run, but do lists devalue DXing any more than 144.525? It is interesting to spend some time listening to a DX operation; so often there is a sudden influx of G DX chasers who have obviously just heard the details over VHF. As somebody who does not have access to the VHF "nets" and has to find DX the hard way, perhaps I am biased. If the DX station working lists is a wanted country and will not go it alone, what other recourse is there but to join in?

Hope to see you at the Convention.

73 de Tony

FROM MIKE, G4IUF: Why change the name? West Washington DXA has members all over the States and many DX countries. Clipperton has many members outside Clipperton, hi! Whatever else you pick people will moan -stick with it guys.

73 de Mike

(Mike also notes that he is desperate for Zone 2 on 28MHz to complete 5BWAZ)

THE LA DX GROUP WEEKEND

Introduction

The LA DX Group decided to celebrate their 10th anniversary by holding a DX weekend for anyone who wished to go. It was held at the Solli Turisenter in Geilo, which is located half-way between Oslo and Bergen in the mountains.

They also decided to air LA1DXG, a special event station that could be used by all visiting amateurs. One of the antennas used was none other than the beam used by 3Y1EE (right down to the PL259).

The Programme

To start with we saw the Lynx DX Club's video of the SORASD operation. This was most interesting as it not only showed the operation, but gave an insight into the people of RASD. It would not have been complete without showing the training of Naama.

Next came the 3Y video. This was most interesting as it was the DXpedition that I heard when I started as an SWL. I think a commentary for this video would be most beneficial.

Then it was the turn of John, ON4UN. He gave an interesting talk on low band DXing. He went into enormous depth about propagation, computers, antenna systems and so on. I did, however, feel that he assumed that the audience all had degrees in advanced electronics. He also dwelt on the, to quote, "Bullshit" that had been written in the past.

OH4NRC gave the next talk on the new Finnish contest station. Many slides of their amazing antenna farm were shown (including monobanders for the LF bands). I learnt the "Finnish Antenna Rule" - a separate tower for every antenna. Good luck to them.

The Dinner

In the evening we had the "DX Dinner". This was held in the main dining room of the hotel, overlooking a lake with snow-capped mountains in the distance.

We had a good meal costing £15 which included asparagus soup, roast veal and vegetables, followed by strawberries and ice cream. This went down very well as a meal of this type in Norway normally costs twice the price.

During the meal many prizes were given. Top DXer of the year award went to Kaare (Ken) LA6WEA. He had worked the highest number of countries in the previous year, including 196+ on 80m. This was a great achievement as he broke his back falling off his tower and was in hospital for six of the twelve months. It just proves it can be done and, I think you will agree, he puts the rest of us to shame.

Sunday

Tom-Viktor, LA4LN, got the ball rolling with a talk on arctic DXing. He is a geologist by profession and spent a number of months on Svalbard, Bear Island and Jan Mayen. It was interesting to see how two hams could fend off polar bears and not go QRT.

This was followed by somewhere a little warmer - the Pacific. This talk was given by OH1RY who spent the autumn transmitting from islands such as T30, KH6, 3D2, C2, etc... He used a 1/4 wave vertical for 80m and wires for other bands. He had a great time being a rare DX station, while his wife had a great holiday.

After lunch LA4LN gave a talk on packet radio and how it can help DXers, eg mailboxes. He also said that many DX stations such as SU1ER always monitor packet but are rarely active on SSB or CW. They are, however, willing to QSY to another mode if asked - worth noting.

This was followed by LA6VM's talk on antenna safety. He went into great detail about keeping antennas up in all weathers. As he said, there is no reason for an antenna to fall providing it is properly guyed.

General

I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and I can honestly say it was the best one I had had in a long time.

I met many people that I had spoken to on the rig and those I had just heard of or read about. I spent most of my time with LA4DCA and LA1PBA who made me feel very welcome, as did everybody else.

Big names present included: ON4UN, K5TEA (who operated from the Vatican in the WPX CW Contest the previous weekend), LA6WEA, LA1EE, LA2GV, DJ0UJ (or TA2BK as he is better known), TF3CW, OH3GZ (Finnish bureau manager) and many more. Nine countries were represented and I am sorry to say I was the only G.

I think everybody who attended the Convention had a great time. I made a lot of new friends and I now know a lot more about DXing than I did at the start. I am looking forward to the next one.

73 de Andrew, GOHSD

CO WW CONTEST OPERATIONS

SSB Contest: A35 by OH2BAZ, C30W by OHs (MS), CT3 by G4FAM? (SA), CR9BZ by OHs (MM), HB0 by Bavarian Group (MM), HC8 by NE8Z, HK0 by HK3MAE?, J3 by W8KKF and W6CDR (MS), J52US by OH2BH (SA), OZ9EDR (first OZ on 160 SSB), PJ1B by US group (MM), PJ1W by N4WW & NX4N (MS), P40A by N1GL (SA), P40T by KB2HZ (S,15), P40V by AI6V et al (MM), PY0F by PS7KM et al (MS), S7 by G3PFS, T2 by K8JRK?, VK9YG by G4JVG, YJ8 by OH1RY, XX9 by WB4FLB, ZF2ML by WB2P, 8P9X by K3KG K3ZR K4FJ.

CW Contest: GU by G group (MS), HK0 by HK3MAE?, J52US by OH? (SA), KC6(East) by KX6DS, LX by Bavarian group (MM), SV5 by W6OSP, VP2MDC by K1TN, VP2MW by AA5DX.

Key: MM=Multi-multi, MS= Multi-op single-tx, SA=Single-op all-band,
S,band=single-op single-band
(only shown where known)

(If your contribution is missing from this newsletter, blame the postal dispute! Any contributions arriving after 18th September will have to be held over until next time).

Countries Wanted
(last updated Sept. 88)

A C C D E F F F K K K K K K S S S
5 9 E 2 T O R R C C H H H H H 2 T V
0 0 / / 6 6 1 3 4 5 5 9 0 /
Z X G T E W K P A

Call

| | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| DJ9ZB | Franz | (0104978224713) | |
| DK9KX | Hans | | |
| G2BJK | Graham | (0934 742568) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3BRD | John | | No info at present |
| G3COJ | Brian | (06285 30425) | x x x x x x x x |
| G3ESY | Peter | | No info at present |
| G3FKM | John | (021 429 3200) | None required |
| G3GIQ | Henry | (01 567 6389) | |
| G3HTA | John | (03632 3333) | |
| G3IFB | Frank | (0452 713792) | x x x x x x x x |
| G3KMA | Roger | (09905 8224) | None required |
| G3LQP | Roger | (01 642 4956) | |
| G3MIR | Dave | (0626 890327) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3NKQ | Clive | | No info at present |
| G3NOB | Rita | | No info at present |
| G3NOF | Don | (0935 24956) | x x x x x x x x |
| G3OFW | Tony | (0344 421783) | No info at present |
| G3OLU | John | (0376 23429) | x x x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3OZF | Don | (0296 748354) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3RUR | Tony | (01 890 0968) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3VIE | Peter | (0734 784048) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3VKW | Keith | (04446 41000) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3VXZ | Mike | (0628 27350) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3XTT | Don | (0734 724192) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3YMC | Dave | (0344 421006) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G3ZAY | Martin | (0223 311714) | No info at present |
| G3ZBA | Sydney | | |
| G3ZTM | Louis | (0932 221731) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4ADD | Bill | (0670 88259) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4ED6 | Steve | (0392 216579) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4FAM | Cris | (01 658 5197) | No info at present |
| G4GED | Dave | (01 578 4484) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4IUF | Mike | (0423 870375) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4JVG | Steve | (0734 722538) | No info at present |
| G4LJF | Ian | (0734 780022) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4NXG | Alan | | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4OBK | Phil | (0254 831751) | No info at present |
| G4PEO | John | (0403 67338) | No info at present |
| G4STH | Tim | (0749 813627) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4SVB | Tony | (0825 872599) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4YLO | Hazel | (0749 813627) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| G4ZYQ | | | No info at present |
| GOABI | Peter | (0647 52520) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GOAEQ | Ray | (0990 28618) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GOHSD | Andrew | (0296 748383 Ext.362) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GM3YOR | Drew | | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GW3AHN | Tom | | |
| GW3CDP | Denzil | | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GW4BKG | Steve | (0656 840204) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GW4BLE | Steve | (0633 55261) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| GWOBIC | Alan | (0600 6584) | x x x x x x x x x x x x |
| BRS25429 | David | (0423 67755) | None required |
| Geoff Watts | | | None required |

Notes: 1. There are 319 countries on the ARRL list

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THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

FROM

NOW A HAPPY DX'ER!

Greetings everybody. I hope you are all reveling in the superb HF conditions that we have now. Both 10 and 15 metres have been quite outstanding the last few days. Time to bump up that 10 metre score. Well a lot has happened since I wrote for the last newsletter.

Firstly it is with regret that I have to tell you that Jack Korndoffer G2DMR, our club Treasurer underwent a serious operation last month. He has come home from hospital after the operation, but is now in a nursing home following a relapse.

It was a great shock to us all to hear of Jack's illness, for if ever there looked a happy and healthy man, it was he. We are all praying that you will soon be back at home and will have a speedy recovery. God Bless you Jack and please get well soon.

I will start this issue by following up on what I said about Westlake's new cable. At long last I seem to have shaken out the last of the bugs from my station. After much frustration at not being able to hear very much, I recabled my KT 34A with the new cable from Westlake - Westlake 103. This is very similar in spec to Mil. Spec. RG 213. It has a slightly lower loss than H100, and it is more flexible. The results have been spectacular!

No more frustration, just work it like a hot knife through butter! Maybe we will at last have a fully functioning station for the WPX contest this time! (The bad news is that I bought a petrol hedge trimmer this week. It works great but I now have 4 80M slopers instead of 5!).

I did short out one end of the old H100 and connected the other end across a car battery. It didn't take a great deal of current, but it did get hot in several places proving in short that it was knackered!

Well I have been very busy of late traveling the world, and have met some old friends and some new.

The first visit of interest was to Bangkok, which I had not been to for 12 years. There I spent a marvelous evening with Tony Waltham HS1AMH and some friends of his. It seems that Ham Radio maybe crawling out of the wood work there, but the future of ex-pats from countries with whom Thailand has no reciprocal agreement seems in jeopardy.

Frankly I can't see the DTI wishing to get involved for so few

in number, and Tony feels that pressure from outside may be required if they are to be allowed to operate in the future. I did talk to Tony from Hong Kong when he was operating the contest station of HS0C, so at least for the moment they are allowed limited operation, but that may not last. The odd thing about that contact was that after a long rag chew, no one came back to Tony's CQ call!

The next visit was to Moscow, a place that again I had not seen for many years, and I was very excited at going back, especially as I had just bought a video camera! A quick call to Denis G4UCB gave me some useful telephone numbers, and armed with a few cassettes of tape, the usual Moscow kit of soap, towel and soft toilet paper, off I went on the 747!

Foreigners now stay at the Cosmos Hotel which is a rather poor attempt at a modern style hotel, and is also quite a way out of town compared with where we used to stay which was on the doorstep of Red Square.

As soon as I arrived, I rang Andy RW3AH and he said that he and George UZ3AWA would be round in an hour. I told them to ring my room as soon as they arrived as I was holding court with my crew. The telephone call happened in due course, and Andy explained that there were 'problems'.

I went down to the lobby where I spotted Andy and George waving me over to the front door, which they had been prevented from entering by the security guards at the door.

I went over and they explained that as Russians they were not allowed in! Glasnost indeed! (If you wanted a Russian woman for the night - no problems, but there was no way I could get these two young men into even the lobby bar for a drink).

So I grabbed my camera and on Andy's invitation, we took a taxi to his apartment. This turned out to be one of the most interesting evening's of my life. You couldn't have asked to meet two nicer and interesting young men, who spoke very passable English as well.

They were very keen to learn about Ham radio on our side, and I peppered them with questions about being a Russian Ham. I also took a video of them both, which I have kept and I am hoping to put together a film that we might show at one of our gatherings.

Andy has a very respectable home brew station. In fact everything is home brew except a rather fascinating military receiver that he bought for 200 Rubbles. Even the keyboard of his Rtty terminal unit was home made, and when you consider that they are unable to purchase much more than resistors and a small range of capacitors, their achievements are quite remarkable.

It appears that you no longer need to be an SWL to become Licenced. You simply apply and after a vetting you are allowed to

take the exams. About three months after application, you get permission to have a station, and then comes the hard part. You have to build all your own equipment, then have it inspected before you go on the air.

Because of the component problems, this can take several years, unless you wish to be a Club Station operator. There is another problem too for the Russian would be Hams. Because of a law that was passed in 1936, no one who has any connection with anything of sensitive nature is allowed to have a transmitter in his house. This excludes a great number of people, including George who works with military computers. As a result, George is a top shot contest operator at the Moscow Radio Sports Club.

This is a very different approach to the one taken over here, for there is more than one Ham at GCHQ!

Most of the HF ops have little respect for Box 88 it seems. This establishment is reportably GRU controlled, with more interest in monitoring what arrives at the Buro than making sure that the cards reach their final destination.

To give you an example of the frustrations that Russian Hams go through, Andy has logged some 20,000 HF QSO's with 269 DXCC countries. He has no more than 150 confirmed!

So next time you hear a not so good signal on the band from Russia, spare a little thought for what those poor fellows have to go through to get on the air at all. It's no wonder there are so many SWL's over there....there is so much against them.

The evening ended at three in the morning with my taking over Andy's rig as G4LJF/UA3 on 80M's! And on 3795 just to rub it in! I worked G3PCG an SM and DJ5YB before sense took over and we pulled the big switch and fled the building. Funny how hard it is to find a taxi at three in the morning in Moscow when you really need one!

Eventually we found one and after farewells I arrived back at the hotel around 4 in the morning and sheepishly slid by the ranks of soldiers that were patrolling the entrance to the hotel!

I then made my frequent trip to Hong Kong, where much to my surprise I ran into our old friend Darleen WD5FQX, who visited CDXC several years ago! She and her daughter were on a Far East cruise upon the Orient Pearl, and Phil and I took them out to lunch before they had to do a rapid shopping spree before the ship sailed again. She sends her best wishes to all her friends in CDXC.

That trip ended with a last stop in Bahrain, where I visited Don Street A92BE. Don has recently moved to a new QTH which is almost the highest part of the Island of Bahrain, though it's really quite flat! Never the less it's a good QTH and he has really turned his interest away from home brewing to Dx'ing these

days. He has a very impressive display of QSL cards to prove it too!

There has not been much in the way of Club correspondence since the last issue. I have had quite a number of letters and telephone calls following the publication of my views on Net Operations that was kindly printed in Radcomm by Dr John Allaway. It was a pity that the last paragraph was muddled from the original version, but I think it more or less made sense.

Thank you to those of you who wrote. There were no letters nor telephone calls of disagreement I am pleased to say!

I have also had a number of people send me a list of the countries that they need. Don G3XTT has agreed to carry on with the Wants list, so please send your updates to him. I have passed on all the details to Don from those who wrote, usually via packet radio to our local Bulletin Board. A very useful mode packet is!

I have also been daily sending messages and retrieving them from VS6UF-1 on 21109.5 LSB). There is no difficulty at all with just 100 watts, until someone comes up on CW! There is a conflict between particularly the U.S. Novice CW segment and the fixed frequency unattended packet Bulletin boards which need urgently sorting out. CW may be able to live with packet, but the slightest QRM to packet causes lost frames, many retries and eventual time out, and then you lose that message you were trying to read! The Soviet states are particularly bad at causing QRM, but that is not surprising as they do not have HF packet over there!

John G3HTA is getting some QRM on .525 from a packet digipeater that has sprung up from the Channel Islands. Apparently the owner of this facility made it known that he intended to use .525, completely out of the spirit of the band plan, and asked for objections. (The band plan already allows 144.625 - 144.675 for packet radio, so there are alternatives to the main network on 144.650). To my knowledge, this was not mentioned in Radcomm. Did anyone see any mention of this?

I have sent a message to David Evans, via packet, and await some response. Watch this space!

Thats all for now. CU at Oxford.

73 de Ian G4LJF Club Secretary



PRESS RELEASE

August 4, 1988

The W6WX beacon has been stolen! Sometime during the late afternoon on July 22, thieves entered the locked trailer at Stanford University which housed the Foundation's 14.1 MHz power-stepping beacon. Only the Kenwood TS-130, its power supply and the special controller were taken. Other equipment and expensive tools located nearby were not touched. W6WX had been on the air continuously for almost ten years as part of a unique beacon network which transmitted for one minute out of every ten at carefully controlled power levels ranging from 100 watts down to 100 milliwatts. DXers and propagation watchers use the network to determine the existence and quality of band openings to various parts of the globe. Other NCDXF beacons still remaining in the network include 4U1UN, KH6O, JA2IGY, 4X6TU, OH2D, CT3B, ZS6DN, and LU4AA.

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Rusty Epps, W6OAT, and Stan Kaisel, K6UD, have been elected, respectively, the new President and Vice President of the Northern California DX Foundation. In addition, John Cronin, K6LLK, has been elected to the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The remainder of the all-volunteer NCDXF Board consists of W6DU (Secretary), WB6UOM (Treasurer), K6TMB, W6OSP, W6SZN, N6HR, W6QHS and KA6W. The Foundation is entering its eighteenth year of supporting amateur radio activities, and in particular DX related activities.

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Erling Wiig, LA6VM, of the LA DX Group and treasurer of last year's highly successful 3Y1EE and 3Y2GV DXpedition to Bouvet Island recently met with Trustees of the Northern California DX Foundation to review the final results of the DXpedition. The NCDXF's \$30,000 contribution to the Bouvet operation was the largest single grant in the Foundation's history. The LADYG was delighted to have received enough contributions that it was able to return \$10,000 to the Foundation as seed money for future DXpeditions to other rare locations.